PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CXXIX.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE TO THE 78TH CONGRESS.

The past year was perhaps, the most crucial for modern civilisation. The coming year will be filled with violent conflict, and yet with high promise of better things.

We must appraise the events of 1942 according to their relative importance—we must exercise a sense of proportion.

First in importance in the American scene has been the inspiring proof of the great qualities of our fighting men. They have demonstrated these qualities in adversity as well as in victory. So long as our flag flies over this Capital, Americans will honour the soldiers, sailors and marines who fought our first battles of this war against overwhelming odds—heroes, living and dead of Wake Island, Batan and Guadalcanar, of the Java Sea and Midway, and of the North Atlantic convoys. Their unconquerable spirit will live for ever.

By far the largest and most important developments in the whole strategic picture of 1942 were the events on the long Fronts in Russia: first the implacable defence of Stalingrad: secondly the offensives by the Russian Armies at various points which started in the latter part of November and which roll on with great force and effectiveness.

Other Major events of the year were the series of Japanese advances in the Philippines, the East Indies, Malaya and Burma; the stopping of the Japanese in the Mid-Pacific, South-Pacific and Indian Oceans; the successful defence of the Near East by the British counter-attack through Egypt and Libya, and the American and British occupation of North Africa.

ALLIED AIR SUPERIORITY.

Of continuing importance in 1942 were the unending and bitterly contested battles of convoy routes and the gradual passing of air superiority from the Axis to the United Nations.

The Axis powers knew that they must win the war in 1942—or eventually lose everything.

I do not need to tell you that our enemies did not win this war in 1942.

In the Pacific area our most important victory of 1942 was the air and naval battle fought at Midway Island. That action is of historical importance because it secured for our use communication lines stretching thousands of miles in all directions. In placing this importance on Midway, I am not unmindful of other actions in the Pacific, on sea, on land and in the air. There have been battles in the Solomons, in New Guinea and elsewhere, but these actions were essentially defensive. During this period we inflicted steady losses on the enemy—great losses of Japanese planes, naval vessels, transports and cargo ships. As early as one year ago, we settled the primary task in the war in the Pacific—day by day, week by week, month by month, the destruction of more Japanese war material than Japanese industry could replace.

A large part of the task has been accomplished by the gallant crews of our American submarines, who strike down, on every side, Japanese ships right up to the very mouth of the harbour of Yokohama.

We know that as each day goes by, Japanese strength in ships and planes s going down and down, and that American strength in ships and planes is going up and up.

Most certainly that task has been and is being performed by our fighting ships and planes.

TRIBUTE TO CHINA.

In these attacks against Japan, we shall be joined by that great people whose ideals of peace are so closely akin to our own. Even to-day we are flying as much Lend-Lease material into China as ever traversed the Burma Road—flying it over mountains 17,000 feet high, flying blind through sleet and snow.

I sometimes feel that the eventual outcome can now be put on a mathematical basis.

That will be apparent to the Japanese people themselves when we strike at their own home island and bomb them from the air. We shall overcome all formidable obstacles and get battle equipment into China to settle the power of our common enemy.

From this war, China will realise security, prosperity and dignity which Japan has sought so ruthlessly to destroy.

The period of our defensive attrition in the Pacific is drawing to a close now, and America will force the Japanese to fight. Now our aim is to force the Japanese to fight. Last year we stopped them. But this year we intend to advance.

THE EUROPEAN THEATRE.

Turning now to the European theatre, during this past year, our first task was to lessen the concentrated pressure on the Russian Front, compelling Germany to transfer part of her man-power and machines to another theatre.

After months of planning on a considerable scale, an enormous expedition was embarked to North Africa from the United States and the United Kingdom in literally hundreds of ships. It reached its objective with very small losses, and has already produced an important effect upon the whole situation of the war. It has opened to attack what Mr. Churchill well described as the under-belly of the Axis, and it has removed the always dangerous threat of an Axis attack through West Africa against the South Atlantic and the continent of South America itself.

The well-timed and splendidly executed offensive from Egypt by the British Eighth Army was part of the same major strategy of the United Nations. Great rains, appalling mud and very limited communications have delayed the final battle in Tunisia.

The Axis is reinforcing its strong position. But I am confident that though the fighting will be tough, when the final Allied assault is made the last vestige of Axis power will be driven from the south shores of the Mediterranean.

DIVERSITY OF ACTIVITIES.

Any review of the year 1942 must emphasise the magnitude and diversity of the military activities in which this nation has become engaged. Approximately one and a half million soldiers, sailors, marines and flying men are in service outside the U. S. continental limits, throughout the world. Our merchant seamen, in addition, are carrying supplies to them and to our Allies over every sea lane. Few Americans realise the amazing growth of our air strength, though I am sure our enemy does. Day in and day out, our forces are bombing the enemy and meeting him in combat on many different fronts in every part of the world. As to the quality of our aircraft, I point to the fact that in Africa we are shooting down two enemy planes to each one we lose, and in the South-West Pacific we are shooting them down four to one.

We pay tribute—tribute to the United States of America—to the fighting men of China, Russia and Britain, and the various members of the British Commonwealth, millions of men who, through the years of this war, have fought our common enemy, and denied to them the world conquest which they sought. We pay tribute to the soldiers, fliers and seamen of other United Nations whose countries have been overrun by the Axis hordes. As a result

of the Allied occupation of North Africa powerful units of the French Army and Navy are going into action. They are in action now with the United Nations' forces.

THREE GREAT LEADERS.

We welcome them as Allies and friends, those Frenchmen who, since the dark days of 1940, have been fighting valiantly for the liberation of France. We pay tribute to the fighting leaders of our Allies, to Mr. Winston Churchill to M. Josef Stalin and to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. There is very great unanimity between the United Nations. This unity is effective in carrying out the major strategy of this war, and in the building up and maintenance of lines of supply.

I cannot prophesy, I cannot tell you when or where the United Nations are going to strike next in Europe, but we are going to strike and strike hard.

I cannot tell you where we are going to hit them—in Norway, or through the Low Countries, or in France or Sardinia, Sicily, or the Balkans, or at several points simultaneously. But I can tell you that no matter where and when we strike by land, we and the British and the Russians will hit them from the air daily and relentlessly. Day in, day out, we shall heap tons upon tons of high explosives on their war factories, utilities and sea ports. Hitler and Mussolini—they will understand now the enormity of their miscalculations.

But the Nazis will not always have the advantage of superior air power as they did when they bombed Warsaw, Rotterdam and London and Coventry. That superiority has gone for ever.

Yes. We believe that the Nazis and the Fascists have asked for it, and they are going to get it.

PRODUCTION FRONT.

Our forward progress in this war has depended upon our progress on the production front. There has been criticism of the management and conduct of our war production. Much of this self-criticism has had a healthy effect. It has spurred us on. It has reflected the normal American impatience to get on with the job. We are a kind of people who are never quite satisfied with anything short of miracles.

There has been some criticism based on guess work, and even on malicious falsification of facts. Such criticism creates doubt and creates fear. I do not wish to suggest that we should be completely satisfied with our production progress to-day, or next month, or next year: but I can report to you on what has been accomplished in 1942. A year ago, we set certain production goals for 1942 and 1943. Some people including some experts, thought that we had pulled the figure out of a hat to frighten the Axis. But we had confidence in the ability of our people to establish records, and that confidence has been justified. Some production objectives have had to be changed and some adjusted. Some have gone up and some down. That was inevitable as we gained experience.

Our production of aeroplanes and tanks in 1942 was something of which we have reason to be proud.

In 1942, we produced 48,000 military planes—more than the aeroplane production of Germany, Italy and Japan put together.

Last month, in December, we produced 5,500 military planes, and the rate is still rapidly rising. Furthermore, we must remember that, as each month passes by, the averages of our types of planes weigh more and take more man-hours to make, and have vastly more striking power. In fact, for good and sufficient reasons, the result of experience in battle, we have diverted a portion of our tank-producing capacity to step up the production of new and deadly field weapons, especially self-propelled artillery.

ARTILLERY OUTPUT.

Here are some other production figures. In 1942, we produced 56,000 combat vehicles such as tanks and self-propelled artillery. In 1942, we produced 670,000 machine-guns—six times greater than our production in 1941, and three times greater than our total production during the year and a half of our participation in the first World War. We produced 21,000 anti-tank guns—six times greater than our 1941 production. We produced 10 billion rounds of small arms ammunition—five times greater than our 1941 production, and three times greater than our production in the first World War. We produced 181 million rounds of artillery ammunition—12 times greater than our 1941 production, and 10 times greater than our total production in the first World War.

I think the arsenal of Democracy is making good. These facts and figures I have given will give no great aid and comfort to the enemy. On the contrary, I can imagine that they will give him considerable discomfort.

I suspect Hitler and Tojo will find it difficult to explain to the German and the Japanese people just why it is that a decadent, inefficient Democracy can produce such phenomenal quantities of weapons; ammunition and fighting men.

THE ARMED FORCES.

Our Armed Forces have grown from 2,000,000 to over 7,000,000. Our farmers have contributed during this time the greatest amount of food made available in a single year of our history.

AMERICAN PATRIOTISM.

Fortunately there are only few Americans who put appetite above patriotism. The overwhelming majority realise that the food we send abroad is for essential military purposes—for our own and other Allied fighting forces and for sending help to other areas. We, Americans intend to do this great job together.

In our common labours, we must build and fortify the very foundation of National amity and confidence and amity and confidence in one another.

It is sometimes thought that it is politically profitable to picture the city of Washington as a madhouse, with a Congress and Administration that is represented to be imbecile and generally incompetent. What matters most in war is results; and one definite fact is that after only a few years of preparation and only one year of warfare, we are able to engage spiritually as well as physically in the total waging of a total war.

We, Americans, are in good and brave company and we are fighting our own honourable part in the common fort. We take our hats off to those responsible for our American production, technicians, engineers and workers, men and women in factories, as also in shipyards. We take our hats off to the farmers who have faced an unprecedented task in feeding not only a great nation, but a great part of the world. We take our hats off to all the anonymous, untiring men and women who have worked in private employment and Government service, and who have endured rationing and other stringencies with good humour and goodwill. We take our hats off to all Americans who have contributed so magnificently to our common cause.

SENSE OF PROPORTION.

I have sought to emphasise a sense of proportion in this review of events of the war and needs of the war. We should never forget the things we are fighting for; but in this critical period of war, we should confine ourselves to large objectives and not get bogged down in argument over methods and details.

We and all the United Nations want a decent peace and a durable peace. In the years between the end of the First World War, and the beginning of the Second World War, we were not living under a decent or a durable peace.

I have reason to know that our boys at the Front are concerned with two broad aims beyond the winning of the war, and they are finding that their opinion coincides with what most Americans here back home are thinking over. They know, and we know, that it would be conceivable—it would indeed be sacrilegious—if this nation and the world do not find some real lasting good out of suffering and death.

Men in our Armed Forces want lasting peace, and equally they want employment for themselves, their families, and their neighbours, when they are mustered out at the end of the war. Two years ago, I spoke to you, in my message, on freedom. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion, are an essential part of the very life of this nation, and we hope that these blessings will be granted everywhere. People at home and people at the Front are wondering a little about the third freedom—the freedom from want.

FREEDOM FROM WANT.

When war production is converted to the economy of peace, they will have the right to expect full employment for themselves and for all able-bodied men and women in America who want to work. They expect opportunity to work to run their farms, and their shops, and to earn decent wages.

There are risks to face—risks inherent in our system. They do not want a post-war-America which suffers from under-nourishment or slums or doles. They want no get-rich-quick bogus prosperity. They consider they have a right to work, and they know that, after the last war, their fathers did not gain that right. Our young men want an assurance against the economic hazards of life, from the cradle to the grave.

I say this now to the 78th Congress, because it is wholly possible that freedom from want, the rate of employment, the rate of assurance against life's hazards, will loom very large in the task of America during the coming two years. I trust it will not be regarded as an issue, but rather as a task for all of us to study systematically, to work out with constant regard for the attainment of the objective.

In this war of survival, we must keep before our minds not only the evil things we fight against, but the good things we fight for.

We fight to retain a great past and we fight to gain a greater future.

Let us remember, too, that the economic safety of the America of the future is threatened, unless economic stability comes to the rescue of the world.

We cannot make America an island in either the military or the economic sense. Victory in this war is the first aim. Victory in peace is the next.

FREEDOM FROM FEAR.

Finally, we must strive for freedom from fear.

To talk of the essential human needs to attain security matters much when we run the risk of another world war in 10, 20 or 50 years. It is just plain commonsense.

Wars grow in size, in deadliness and in destruction, and in the inevitability of involving all nations in the inverse ratio to the shrinking of the size of the world.

I shudder to think what will happen to humanity, including ourselves, if this war ends in an inconclusive peace, and another war breaks out, so that the babies of to-day have to fight again. Every normal American prays that neither he, nor his sons, nor his grandsons, will be compelled to go through this horror again. Undoubtedly, a few Americans even now think that this nation can end this war comfortably, and then climb back into the American hole and pull the hole in after them.

But we have learnt we can never dig a hole deep enough to be safe against a predatory animal. We have also learnt that you cannot pull the fangs of the predatory animals of this world.

They will multiply and grow in strength, and they will be at our throats again once more in a short generation. Most Americans realise more clearly than ever before that a modern war equipment in the hands of aggressor nations can bring danger overnight to our whole national existence, or to any other nation or island or continent.

NO FUTURE AGGRESSION.

If Germany, Italy and Japan, or any one of them, remain armed at the end of this war, or are permitted to re-arm, they will again, and inevitably, embark upon an ambitious career of world conquest.

They must be disarmed, and kept disarmed, and they must abandon the philosophy and teaching of the philosophy which has brought so much suffering to the world.

After first World War, we tried to achieve a formula—a formula for a permanent peace based on a magnificent idealism. We failed.

But by our failure we have learnt that we cannot maintain peace at this stage of human development by good intentions alone.

To-day, the United Nations are the mightiest military coalition in all history. They represent the overwhelming majority of the population of the world, bound together in a solemn agreement that they themselves will not commit acts of aggression, or of conquest, against any of their neighbours.

The United Nations can, and must, remain united for the maintenance of peace by preventing any attempt to re-arm in Germany, in Japan, in Italy, or in any other nation which seeks to violate the Tenth Commandment: "Thou shalt not covet."

There are cynics, there are sceptics, who say it cannot be done. The American people and all freedom-loving peoples of this earth are demanding that it must be done, and the will of these people shall prevail.

The very philosophy of the Axis Powers is based on a profound contempt for the human race.

ANSWER TO CYNICS.

If, in the formulation of future policy, we are guided by the same cynical contempt, we should be surrendering to the philosophy of our enemies, and our victory would turn to defeat. The issue of this war is a basic issue between those who believe in mankind and those who do not.

It is the ancient issue between those who put their faith in the people, and those who put their faith in dictators and tyrants.

There have always been those who do not believe in the people and attempt to block their forward movement across history, and to force them back to servility and suffering.

The free peoples of the world have now gathered their strength and are moving forward in their might and power. No combination of force can stop them now.

They see before them the hope of a world of decent security and peaceful life for men everywhere.

I do not prophesy when this war will end, but I do believe that this year of 1943 will give to the United Nations very substantial advance along the roads that lead to Berlin, Rome and Tokyo.

I tell you it is within the realm of possibility that this 78th Congress may have the historic privilege of helping greatly to save the world from future fear. Therefore, let us all have confidence, let us redouble our efforts. The tremendous task in peace as well as in war is ahead of us.

But as we face the task, we know that the state of this nation is good. The heart of this nation is sound. The spirit of this nation is strong. The faith of this nation is eternal.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

9—1—43 to 15—1—43.

Russia.—In the Don Bend the Russians have advanced nearly up to the line of the Donets—which is about 200 miles from STALINGRAD. They have left behind the German 6th Army bagged, but still alive and kicking before STALINGRAD. It is well dug in, amply provided with ammunition dumps and provisioned by air.

Leaving this pocket of resistance behind to exhaust itself, the Russians are now engaged on the far more important task of cutting off the German line of retreat from the CAUCASUS at ROSTOV and at TIKHORETSK, south of ROSTOV where the CAUCASUS Railway cuts the STALINGRAD—Black Sea Railway, and have now reached a point within 65 miles of the one and 100 miles of the other. The German army in the CAUCASUS is still 300 miles away from ROSTOV.

In the MILLEROVO District the Russian advance has been slight. But further east the Russians have reached TATSINKAYA, crossed the Don at TSYMLYANSKAYA and advanced to the Sal River, a tributary of the Manich River which flows into the Don near ROSTOV. They have come very near the other Russian army from KOTELNIKOVO, which marching along the railway on which SALSK and TIKHORETSK are situated has taken ZIMOVNIKI, and crossing the Sal is heading for SALSK. NOVONIKOLAIVSKAYA has been taken. 22,000 square miles of territory in the Don Bend have been recovered.

At the CAUCASUS, as the reader is aware, the Russian thrust is two-pronged. One of the arms, starting from MOZDOK has now taken PROKBAINAYA, MINCRALVODI and GEORGIERSK. The other arm from NALCHIK is moving along the Caucasian foothills towards PYATIGORSK, where the Germans hoped to nestle for the winter, and has reached ORLOUSKY.

In the KALMUCK country, north of the main CAUCASUS line other Russian forces seeking contact with their comrades at KOTELNIKOVO have come within 40 miles.

According to the latest reports the Russian army from the North CAUCASUS has linked up with the force in the Kalmuck steppes and the combined forces are driving towards ROSTOV.

The Russian armies of the lower Don and of the CAUCASUS are still separated, however, by a distance of 150 miles. But by thrusting from two directions at right angles to each other they are gradually forcing the Germans out of the CAUCASUS and the KUBAN.

The CAUCASUS territory, already recovered apart from its strategic value is a rich wheat-growing tract, with distilleries and mills.

On the Central Front the Russians are consolidating west of VELIKIYE LUKI and pushing towards NEVEL.

According to German announcements new Russian offensives have been launched in the VORONEJ and LENINGRAD sectors.

Tripolitania.—After a three days' violent sruggle Fighting French Forces captured the key out-post of OUMEL ARANEB, 1,000 miles from Fort LAMY—the Lake CHAD base. They have now penetrated the borders of TRIPOLITANIA and occupied BRACH, MÚRZUG and SEBHA. Another French Force moving parallel with the CHAD Force has taken TACHOUNIT and CARLET and has contacted the CHAD Force.

Tunisia.—Active patrolling continues in the area between BOURADA and GOUBELLAT. French troops have captured KAIRWAN and trapped an enemy force north of DJEBEL BOUDABOURS.

Solomons.—The following places were bombed: January 6: SHORTLAND Island, KAHILI (BOUGANVILLE Island), MUNDA (NEW-GEORGIA); January 7: REKATA (ST. ISABEL Island); January 10: Japanese installations in GUADALCANAR.

New Guinea.—A Japanese attempt to reinforce LAE by landing troops from a special convoy cost the enemy 133 aircraft, besides damage to ships. Thus it was both a battle for the ships and the Zeros.

The battle began on January 1, 25 miles south of GASMATA. On January 1 Allied bombers made a severe attack followed by a day-long combat, and on January 2, the remnants of the convoy which managed to escape the bombers were caught at sea off NEW BRITAIN and given direct hits.

The Aleutians.—KISKA was bombed on January 5, 6 and 7. 'Early this month' a Japanese cargo ship was sunk in HOLTZ Bay in ATTU Island.

Burma.—British troops operating in the ARAKAN District have contacted the enemy on either side of the Mayu River in the MAYU Peninsula and near

RATHEDAUNG. Though isolated parties are still holding out in the MAYU Peninsula near Foul Point, hiding in the hills, the enemy generally speaking, having withdrawn from MAUNGDAW BUTHIDAUNG would seem to have decided on making a stand at RATHEDAUNG.

The R. A. F. and U. S. A. Air force targets of the week were January 7—MAGSHIH; January 8—a village near RATHEDAUNG, motor transport near the KYAUKTADAUNG on the MEIKLA Road, DABAING aerodrome, gun positions at Fakir Point, and BHAMO WESHISLAU, CHIGKRANGHKA and NSOPZUP, January 9—RATHEDAUNG, SHWEBO, KYAUKPALAUNG; January 11—the railway station at PINTHA, railways trucks at KYAIKTHIN, LUINGCHAUNG and RATHEDAUNG; January 10—MYTGNE bridge near MANDALAY.

China.—Chinese forces have hammered the Japanese in and around SINYANG and drove them out of TUNGOHENG in western ANTWEI. KWANGSHAN was re-captured on January 11 and LOSHAN on January 12.

Miscellaneous.—(1) A big British Convoy has battled its way through the Arctic waters and arrived safely at its destination on the Russian coast, despite cold, ice, and low visibility, after beating off powerful German naval forces consisting of a pocket battle ship, a cruiser and a number of destroyers. The enemy was contacted on December 8, four times he attacked and every time he was beaten off. Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty has said 'There never was anything finer in the Royal Navy annals'. Captain Robert St. Vincent Sherbrooke, the convoy hero has been awarded the Victoria Cross.

(2) U. S. has budgetted for 77,000 million dollars expenditure in 1943 and 100,000 million dollars in 1944 : the items being ;

	1943	*1944*
Munitions	43,000	66,000
Military and Civil pay, Sustenance, Travel.	15,000	21,000
Industrial and Constructional ...	6,000	2,000
Other Constructions ...	8,000	5,000
Other Expenditure ...	5,000	6,000

(3) Treaties were signed on Jan. 11 under which BRITAIN and, AMERICA have both relinquished extra-territorial rights in CHINA. In a nation-wide broadcast Marshal Chiang-Kai-Shek has declared, 'The signing is not only an important page in CHINA's history but a glorious contribution by the UNITED STATES, GREAT BRITAIN and other friendly nations towards equality and freedom for the human race.'

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

3—1—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE (Not a single Allied plane lost).

DAY:—
The docks and the naval base at ST. NAZAIRE.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks at BIZERTA; Railways near SOUSSE and GABES.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The enemy airport at MUNDA (N. Georgia); Jap occupied villages in the RATHEDAUNG area (Burma); A factory near MONYWA (Burma); Jap lorries at MEIKTILA (Burma).

4—1—43 (Monday).

EUROPE (2 Allied planes missing).

NIGHT:—
Military and Industrial targets in the RUHR.

NORTH AFRICA (5 axis planes shot down).

The harbour and shipping at SFAX; An airfield at KAIRWAN; Air combats over TUNISIA; An airfield in LAMPEDUSA Island.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the ground all along the entire Eastern Front.

FAR EAST (3 Jap planes shot down).

The airfield at MUNDA (N. Georgia); The aerodromes at GASMATA (N. Britain) and LAE (N. Guinea); Rail road junction of NABA (Burma); Rail road yards at MANDALAY (Burma); A big ship off RANGOON (sunk).

5—1—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE.

No information available.

NORTH AFRICA.

Railway sidings and quays at SOUSSE; Offensive sweeps over LAMPEDUSA Island; Railway yards near KAIROUAN.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the ground all over the Russian battlefield.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at MUNDA (N. Georgia); The aerodrome at LAE.

A Jap cargoship off KISKA (Aleutians); Jap position near RATHEDAUNG.

The Railway junction at MANDALAY.

6—1—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE.

Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA & MEDITERRANEAN (4 axis planes destroyed).

The harbour at LA GOULETTE; The docks at SOUSSE; Sulphur factories at LICATA (SICILY); An aerodrome on LAMPEDUSA Island; The docks at TUNIS.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

The airfield at MUNDA; A heavy cruiser off BUIN Island (Solomons); (3 Jap planes and 2 Allied planes lost); Jap transport in the SHORTLAND Island area; Jap position in the MAYU River area.

7—1—43 (Thursday).

EUROPE

NIGHT:—
Military and Industrial targets in the RUHR (Germany).

NORTH AFRICA & MEDITERRANEAN.

Enemy transport moving westward TRIPOLI; The airfield and barracks at GABES; Targets near TUNIS and SFAX; Air combats over COMISO in SICILY (2 Axis planes shot down); The harbour at PALERMO (SICILY).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all over the Eastern battlefield.

FAR EAST.

The aerodrome at KHALI (Solomons); The airfield at MUNDA (N. Georgia).

The harbour at RABAUL (N. Britain); Jap position in the SANANANDA area (N. Guinea); The port of AKYAB (Burma); RATHEDAUNG (Burma).

8—1—43 (Friday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
Military and Industrial targets in the RUHR; Laying mines in the enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

The harbours at BIZERTA and FERRYVILLE (4 Axis planes destroyed); Targets at KAIRWAN and GABES; The rail road at KALLARICA and GRAIBA (TUNISIA); Air sweeps over FONDOUK (2 Axis planes shot down).

Transport on the road between ZILLPEN and HOMS.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST (20 Jap planes destroyed).

The aerodrome at GASMATA (N. Britain); An enemy torpedo-boat off KAI Islands; An enemy convoy of troop transports off N. Guinea.

9—1—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE.

NIGHT:—
Military objectives at ESSEN; Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.

NORTH AFRICA.

The docks and aerodrome near TUNIS and BIZERTA; Transport on the road between SFAX and GABES; Road junctions near TRIPOLI and TUNIS.

Targets at MISURATA; Intruder patrols over the PANTELLARIA Island, SICILY.

RUSSIA. (Axis air losses for the week 2—1—43 to 9—1—43=313 planes.)
(Russian air losses for the week 2—1—43 to 9—1—43=93 planes.)

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Enemy barges and dumps at LAE (N. Guinea); The harbour at RABAUL (N. BRITAIN).

The aerodrome at MADANG (Solomons); KAI Islands; Villages in TIMOR.

Enemy targets in and near RATHEDAUNG (Burma); A convoy of Jap lorries west of SHWEBO (Burma); Railway trucks and sheds at KYAUKPADAUNG (Burma); Gun emplacements on the MAYU Peninsula

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

4—1—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

A few districts in north-east ENGLAND.

NORTH AFRICA and FAR EAST.

No information available.

RUSSIA.

Russian armies in the MOZDOK area.

5—1—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

A coastal district of East ANGLIA.

NORTH AFRICA.

The allied base at BONE (Algeria).

FAR EAST.

The air-field at GUADALCANAR.

6—1—43 (Wednesday)

BRITAIN.

DAY:—
A place on the East coast of ENGLAND.

RUSSIA.

Russian position South-west of VELIKIYE LUKI.

FAR EAST.

Allied stronghold near BUNA.

7—1—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No air raid anywhere in BRITAIN.

LIBYA.

Allied forward position in the WADI ZEMZEM area.

RUSSIA.

Russian supply lines behind the battle area in the Central Front

8—1—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No air attack anywhere in BRITAIN.

RUSSIA.

Russian positions in the Central Front and the Southern Front.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

9—1—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

DAY:—
A place on the East coast of ENGLAND.

NIGHT:—
No air attack.

RUSSIA.

Russian supply lines behind the forward lines.

FAR EAST.

MERAUKI (Solomons).

SIDE LIGHTS.

STIRRING NEW YEAR MESSAGE. We make no apologies for printing in full on another page President Roosevelt's resounding message to the 78th Congress which opened in Washington on Jan. 7. It is a New Year message and a testament of hope and good-will addressed not to his own people and nation alone but to the ends of the earth, and to all friends of peace and men of good will. It strikes a note of clear quiet confidence, amounting to an assurance, in the final issues of the war and exhibits an iron determination to wipe out the malefactors. Here are a few extracts :—

'The period of our defensive attrition in the Pacific is drawing to a close now and AMERICA will force the Japanese to fight. Last year, we stopped them but this year we intend to advance' (This is good news for INDIA).

'The Axis is reinforcing, but I am confident that though the fighting will be tough when the final assault is made the last vestige of Axis power will be driven from the south shores of the Mediterranean' (That is, from the 'underbelly' of the Axis—Let Mussolini beware.)

'I cannot prophecy, I cannot tell you when or where the United Nations are going to strike next in EUROPE, but we are going to strike, and strike hard. The Nazis will not always have the advantage of superior air-power as

they did when they bombed WARSAW, ROTTERDAM and LONDON and COVENTRY. That superiority has gone for ever' (This is for Goering shining with the latest Hungarian decoration on his over-crowded breast).

'We have learnt we can never dig a hole deep enough to be safe against a predatory animal. We have also learnt that you cannot pull the fangs of the predatory animals of the world...... If GERMANY, ITALY and JAPAN or any one of them remain armed at the end of this war, or are permitted to re-arm, they will multiply and grow in strength, and they will be at our throats again. We fight to retain a great past, and we fight to gain a greater future. The issue of this war is a basic issue between those who believe in mankind and those who do not. It is the ancient issue between those who put their faith in the people and those who put their faith in dictators and tyrants' (This is the new philosophy in contrast to the BERLIN-creed).

'I do not prophesy when this war will end but I do believe that this year 1943 will give to the United Nations a very substantial advance along the roads that lead to BERLIN, ROME and TOKYO' (This is our expectation).

'We know that the state of this nation (U. S. A.) is good. The heart of this nation is *sound*. The spirit of this nation *strong*. The faith of this nation is *eternal*' (And this is Allied strength).

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TURNING GREY. Hitler is reported to be turning grey, and those who saw him making his latest speech found him so 'flattened and coarsened' and so changed that they are said to have wondered if it was he or his double. So great are the ravages wrought by defeat and disgrace. To-day he is the most disappointed and desperate man in EUROPE.

'What would I not give for a piece of bread. We live like wild beasts. Our New Year's dinner was a dead horse found on the roadside,' so writes a German soldier home from the Eastern Front. It is a tale of disgusting tragedy—the proud German army reduced to eating horse-flesh and carcasses! We do not know what Hitler, reported to be a vegetarian thinks of this newest addition to the national diet, but we do know that Goebbels and his boys have been flourishing the propaganda drum of late extolling the virtues of rat-meat and horse-flesh.

Hitler, for the first time fears the future and prays to God; that, in short is his New Year message. For the first time Goering does not know what the future 'holds in store'. For the first time even the facetious Goebbels thinks that 'the ascent is stony and laborious' and that if it be not mastered 'everything has been in vain and everything is lost'.

It was not long ago that Hitler boasted that the winter of 1943 would prove easier, and Goering spoke of 'a centre of gravity' which would, be fixed in Russia by the Germans.

But the tables have been turned cleverly, and the 'centres' of attack are now determined by Russians from VELIKIYE LUKI to the footholds of the CAUCASUS. As a German commentator, Hans Fritsche has said, the Russian army grows like the fabled Hydra, new armies springing up where old ones have been beaten back.

And Hitler is now openly accused at home of being the auther of all this débacle. It was all his mistake. He would not order a retreat earlier to save his southern armies. When he opened his Russian attack in July he expected that MOSCOW would be depleted of its reserves to save the CAUCASUS. But Stalin, wiser than he, would not be so decoyed. Though the CAUCASUS was highly important to him, he knew MOSCOW was more important still and vital. So he held back his reserves, defending meanwhile VORONEJ and STALINGRAD, the gateways leading to MOSCOW. His reserves were his trumps, and when winter came and the Germans were exhausted, he got them out and selecting several points simultaneously struck here, there and everywhere.

And now, writes the *Times* sagely, 'Russia's friends watch the weather reports with changed feelings'. Last winter the exceptional severity was welcomed because it halted the German operations. But this winter the best that we can wish is that it will be late and mild so that the present Russian offensive may not be halted.

'In the second year of this mighty struggle', continues the *Times*, 'better knowledge of the ground is no longer a sufficient explanation of the superior Russian power to withstand the rigours of the season and turn them to account. There is a contest of spirit and will underlying the contest of arms, and in this too, they are steadily establishing their advantage.

'Signs may be read that imponderable factors of strategy are moving against the Germans—such signs as the increasing proportion of prisoners to other German casualties, the acknowledgment of shaken confidence contained in Gen. Scherer's brutal threat to persecute the families of men who surrender, and the concealment of the loss of VELIKIYE LUKI from the German public'.

This last item, the writing down of the Russian successes is Goebbels' job. He calls the recapture of VELIKIYE LUKI a pure fiction, and his disciple Lord Haw Haw goes one better by declaring that in the valley of the Middle Don the advance is by the Germans and not by the Russians. We suppose it is parallel to Rommel's recent *westward* drive in LIBYA.

And Hitler has had other reasons to spoil his Christmas and New year. FRANCE is fast awakening from her slumber in spite of Laval's doping. RUMANIA who is neither fish nor flesh in the present struggle is wondering why she should fight and bleed and die in RUSSIA. In HUNGARY there are more cold feet than winter warrants. The Finnish Parliament has withheld full powers from its quisling President. SWEDEN is hurrying up military preparations. Franco is doubtful. TURKEY is watchful. ITALY may slip unless jailed and double barred. And to crown the Christmas for Hitler the Pope has denounced

'the paganism which has returned with its various plagues—lust of power, enslavement, false philosophies of life, the excessive regimentation of men and their treatment as soulless masses'—Such is the pontifical benediction.

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SHIPPING WAR. There never was any truth in the enemy's frequently made assertion that he sank more ships than the Allies could replace. The figures lately published by the Washington Production Board give the lie to the statement. AMERICA alone has been constructing at the rate of four victory ships a day, and will soon double its production, exceeding the total output of the rest of the world, and there are ships too rolling off the stocks weekly in BRITAIN.

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BURMA. In ARAKAN district fighting continues on either side of the Mayu River, both in the DONBAIK area and on the MAYU Peninsula and around RATHEDAUNG. The indications are that as the British and Indian units advanced southwards from MAUNGDAW in the MAYU Peninsula, west of the Mayu River, the enemy withdrew to RATHEDAUNG. Fighting in the area is adventurous. The Mayu river, which is two miles wide at RATHEDAUNG, is mist-covered in the mornings. The troops have to learn to carry and handle mules on ferries and to swim in tidal waters, for which they have been provided with 'Mae Wests'. In jungle and high country the enemies are not only the Japanese but also pythons, tigers, snakes, cholera, small-pox and malaria. The only shelters are palm-leaf huts.

Japanese troops are using the wild jungle-clad hills in an effort to hold out. For all their protestations to the contrary they are showing little respect for other people's religious feelings. At RATHEDAUNG, for instance, their strongest positions are around three Buddhist temples.

Day by day the Japanese betray the weakness of their hold on BURMA. First they forbade, under strict penalty, any listening-in to foreign broadcasts. On January 5, they appealed over the RANGOON radio for Burmese co-operation, which in former broadcasts they had claimed to have been already secured. On January 6, they changed their tune from appeal to threat. Admitting that both the Burmese and Indian communities had helped the R. A. F. and the U. S. air force in their recent raids on Japanese installations in RANGOON, the announcer named the 'culprits' over the RANGOON radio, and declared them to have been sentenced to death. Similar threats of similar punishment have also been announced for 'spies' and 'fifth columnists'.

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GUADALCANAR may now be considered secure. In October last the Allied situation was no doubt critical, as there was scarcely any naval or air interception to prevent the Japanese landings or their repeated nocturnal attacks. Then the Allied lines extended

only to a few miles on the coast from Koli Point in the last to Point Cruz in the west, with a jungle hinterland in between. The Matanikau River was the limit.

But now, and particularly after the Allied naval victory on November 11—12, the situation has radically changed. American troops at present hold an area, stretching over 18 miles along the coast and about four miles deep, which is double the territory they held two months ago. The Handerson Airfield which is situated here is out of range of the Japanese guns. Enough troops, both of the Army and the Marine, have been assigned to GUADALCANAR to protect this vital air base. The enemy, who originally occupied both sides of the Allied positions, has now been obliged to withdraw from the west, and depend on the parachute for his precarious supplies of food, medicines and munitions.

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PAPUA. In NEW GUINEA, or to be more particular in PAPUA, the Japanese have equally deteriorated. Their dreams of an easy occupation of PORT MORESBY have not only proved false, but driven across the mountains they have lost their best positions, BUNA with its excellent air field and GONA. Only SANANANDA a tiny spot remains, and its fate is sealed.

But it must be said to the Japanese credit that foreseeing disaster as early as December 13, they made their plans to build a chain of ports along the NEW GUINEA coast extending from the BUNA area, around HAON Peninsula, to the north-west of the island, as far as the border of DUTCH NEW GUINEA. So while the remnants of the Japanese were, under orders, staging a hopeless battle to the last man, in a delaying action at BUNA, landings were made on December 13 at the Mambare and Kumusi estuaries, and MADANG and FINSCHHAFEN harbours were occupied on December 18. The latest operation towards this end was carried out on January 6 when a convoy equal in size to the original force that was sent to PAPUA approached LAE. The Japanese have already established an air-field at WEWAK, 2000 miles west of MADANG.

The inference to be drawn from these designs is that the Japanese are planning a forestalling action, which while fundamentally of a defensive character may also be utilised offensively should an opportunity arise. All the points selected by the Japanese possess anchorages and air-fields, which would be available for use equally by the army, the navy and the air force. One immediate purpose is no doubt to fortify the right flank of NEW BRITAIN—particularly RABAUL, which is rather exposed now, but which is the key-point in the south Pacific for all Japanese designs. RABAUL, with its splendid harbour is within easy reach of the Japanese supply stations in the CAROLINE and MARSHALL islands, and is only about 500 miles from BUNA. LAE and SALAMUA, the other two remaining Japanese bases in PAPUA are within one hour's flying distance from BUNA.

The news of present heavy Japanese naval concentrations at RABAUL need not therefore cause much surprise, nor should it lead to the conclusion that the appearance of this armada in the South Seas necessarily implies an invasion of AUSTRALIA. American superiority in the air is now well established beyond doubt. It appears that the concentratian is mainly an attempt at self defence, and at the worst, a move to cut off American communications with AUSTRALIA, or it may be to make a diversionary attack on Allied spearheads and supply lines in the area.

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THE DEFENSIVE OFFENSIVE- This is the peculiar strategy that has kept CHUNGKING defiant all these years. This is Chinese reply to Japanese steel. To the Chinese, as it has been described 'tactics take the place of supplies, and skilled withdrawals the technique of cushioning off the enemy's superior weight of metal.' Places are surrendered only to be retaken later. This is the kind of war that is now persistantly waged in ANHWEI Province, where places, particularly CHANGSHA, have been changing hands with bewildering surprise.

We have President Roosevelt's assurance that CHINA is now receiving supplies as abundantly as when the BURMA Road was open. In the air it is the Allied aircraft that go out to attack the enemy's supply vessels, whether it be in HANKOW, or SWATOW.

With the abrogation of Extra-Territoriality generously conceded by GREAT BRITAN and AMERICA, a century-long misunderstanding has been removed and CHINA, radiant with a new nationhood, with her place assured in the comity of nations, now fights on, confident of victory.

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PANTOMIME. JAPAN has set the NANKING puppet dancing-NANKING has been made to declare war on the British Empire and the UNITED STATES-and we suppose therefore, against the United Nations and the rest of the world, as if NANKING had a Government of its own and owned an army to fight with. This is only a Japanese trick to create the illusion that there is an independent authority in CHINA other than that at CHUNGKING. But as a matter of fact Wang-Ching Wei, the puppet head at NANKING has neither authority nor territory to call his own. In poor imitation of the Allies, JAPAN has renounced extra-territorial rights.

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THE FLYING HOSPITAL. While science has been charged with having invented and furnished the terrible weapons of Modern War, Science has also found new ways of assuaging pain. A Flying Hospital is a modern necessity arising from fighting in far-flung theatres of war and quick-changing scenes of action. We learn that the first Flying Hospital was used by the Americans in PAPUA, with life-saving equipment, including an X-ray plant, weighing 50,000 lbs. The scientist can help to kill as well as to save.

AKYAB.

(The Illustrated Weekly of India).

"R. A. F. bomb Akyab. Fighter sweeps along the Kaladan and Mayu rivers"—thus say the papers describing fresh bombings in Arakan. One can visualise wrecked steamers, burning buildings, military installations destroyed, and aerodrome runways made unserviceable. The object of these bombings is to make Arakan so unhealthy for the Japanese forces that they will abandon it altogether.

The problem of getting supplies in sufficient quantities to maintain an army and air force must be a nightmare to the Japanese Commanders. The bulk of their requirements must come along the coast from Rangoon. There are several passes from Lower Burma over the Yomas into Arakan, such as the An and the Taungup, but even the small quantity which may come over these routes has still to be brought by river steamers or country boats from An or Taungup to Akyab, a three days' journey.

Instead of roads and railways, Arakan has rivers and creeks. It could be likened to a man's hand with the fingers spread apart. The wrist is the capital, Akyab, and each finger represents a main river, which are the Naaf, the Mayu, the Moze, the Kaladan and the Lemro. The veins would be the smaller rivers and creeks which join these rivers.

BENGALI IMMIGRANTS.

The propulation of Akyab in normal times was about 45,000, which increased enormously in the paddy season. More than 150,000 people from Bengal came into Arakan, either to work in the rice mills in Akyab or to reap the paddy in the district. The most popular route was to walk overland from Chittagong to Maungdaw. A small number came by the small sea-going steamer from Chittagong to Maungdaw. From Maungdaw they walked on the road, which was formerly a narrow gauge railway, to Bothidaung, a distance of 16 miles. Here river steamers conveyed them down to Akyab—a seething mass of humanity packed like sardines, but all happy at the prospect of getting work, good food and good pay.

The Japanese army of occupation must have had a miserable time since it occupied Akyab early in May. The rainy season begins any time between the 11th and the 24th of May; so they had very little time to prepare suitable quarters. The "scorched earth" policy had been carried out in Akyab, and what little was not destroyed then, has been destroyed by the heavy R. A. F. bombings. They must have found Akyab, therefore, a very poor prize. All the population had fled to the jungle and starving dogs and cats were the only occupants.

VERY HEAVY RAINFALL.

The rainfall from the middle of May to the end of October averages 224 inches. In June, 1941, there were 14 inches in six hours. Who would enjoy manning an A. A. gun under such conditions? From May to the end of

November, Akyab has been bombed 50 times. How praiseworthy is the daring and pluck of our airmen in going through torrential rain and cyclonic conditions to make the aerodrome and port as unserviceable as possible!

DEFENDERS' WORRIES.

Akyab itself is an island, and to get in or out of it one must use a boat or a plane. The town has fairly good roads. There is one road leading from the town which branches into two at the five-and-a-half-mile post, and both these roads end at a river at the 11th mile. The aerodrome is a mile and a half from the town.

The dry season has now arrived, and though the Japs may be feeling more comfortable, their troubles are only beginning. Flying conditions are now perfect, and that aerodrome will be "hell upon earth" for those who have to defend it. It is only 340 miles from Calcutta and 160 miles from Chittagong. It goes without saying that it will be very much in the news, as it is a menace to the safety of towns in Bengal.

HIMMLER.

(*From the Observer*).

He has by now killed so many people as to make the activities of a Torquemada or a Robespierre appear petty in comparison. He has thought out and constantly refined the most nearly perfect system of scientifically calculated torture the world has ever known. He has fashioned, and he commands, its instruments: the ubiquitous Gestapo and the armed S. S., an army of 500,000 highly trained and completely dehumanised killers. He is, at this moment, the most powerful man in Europe, not excluding Hitler, who by now rules more or less on his sufferance, and whom he could have put out of the way any day it suited him.

All this, however, in his own view, is scarcely more than a modest beginning. He is in the prime of his life—just forty-two. He thinks he has his main life's work before him. He intends to open up a new world-age. While Hitler modestly speaks of inaugurating a millennium, Himmler is reported to have said that he is laying the foundations for a world-order to last twenty to thirty thousand years. "Mankind", he says, "is in a process of mutation. In future there will be two species of man." And he, Heinrich Himmler, is to create them. He hopes, during his life-time, to exterminate one of the major races of the old mankind: the Jews. He intends also to undo and to plough under several or all of the old European nations: for a beginning, the Poles and Czechs. Nor is he content to raise the German nation as it is to a position of Herrenvolk. "Like a breeder who tries to bring out again a good old sort," he writes in one of his rare literary utterances, "we are going over the Germanic races, selecting and crossing the most perfect surviving specimens." The S. S., to him, is not only an instrument of power, not only a ruling caste, but the foundation of a new race, "a new species of man": the studfarm where the superman is bred.

So much for the thoughts and deeds of Heinrich Himmler. Looking for the man behind them, one has a surprise. This man is the very embodiment of indifferent, nondescript mediocrity. Not one trait of greatness or of character. None of those violent passions which mark the great villains from the nobler times of history. Not even the neurotic fanaticism of a Hitler. A quiet, correct, rather dull, good-tempered fellow. This is the horrible puzzle of Himmler. He is Mr. Averageman turned demon.

His is the kind of face which is the depair of the cartoonist: just a mass of plum, clean-shaven flesh with a nipper hooked on it. His eyes are colourless, his gaze is sleepy, and he does not look people in the face. He cannot speak. For years now he has avoided any public performance as an orator. Nor can he write. His few articles are made up of horrid clichés, strung together in an almost ungrammatical way. But, like many illiterate people, he is a good entertainer in a small homely circle. His "inexhaustible" repertoire of funny stories was one of the means to ingratiate him with Hitler. And Ribbentrop's British nurse found him the most charming guest of the house. "One wouldn't have dreamed that this was the chief of the dreaded Gestapo." A teller of funny stories, modest, quiet-mannered, very middle-class, "always polite with the ladies", industrious, a reliable worker, somewhat pedantic but efficient, a pleasant and useful nobody—this is to what all accounts of Himmler before his present eminence boil down. This is the man who has become the hangman of Europe.

He is the son of a Munich schoolmaster. He went through the usual process of state-education. He served one year in the German Army without any distinction. He studied a few years without winning any academic honours. He was a minor clerk in some industrial concern. Later he took to poultry-farming in a small way. As a poultry-farmer and "agricultural expert" he joined the Nazi party some time in the late' twenties.

Like Goebbels, he was a discovery of Gregor Strasser's, at that time Hitler's rival for the leadership of the party, who made young Himmler his private secretary. Strasser woud occasionally poke fun at the clumsy over-zeal of his young protégé, at his passion for keeping registers and compiling black lists. Nevertheless, he helped him on. It was on Strasser's recommendation that Himmler was appointed leader of the S. S. in 1929—at that time a troop of 280 men. Later, it was on Himmler's orders that S. S. men arrested Strasser on June 30, 1934, while he was sitting down to lunch, took him out to a wood and there trampled him to death.

If anything, this 30th of June was Himmler's big day: with a stroke, the insignificant, little-known sub-leader, so far only police chief of Munich, burst into the limelight as the Reich's executioner-in-chief. But apart from this, it is difficult to fix his career to definite dates. His is no dramatic career; he slowly, steadily, methodically, wormed his way into power. His passion for record-keeping and lists-compiling served him well; so did his reputation for unambitious insignificance. When in 1936 the year-long struggle between

him and Goering for the key-position of Chief of the German Police was at last decided in his favour—was it perhaps because he seemed so much less dangerous than the openly ambitious, boastful, popular Marshal?

To-day he rules supreme in all but in name. He flies from capital to capital, and wherever he takes off he leaves a patch of blood behind. And Europe groans under the heel of the most hideous tyrant she has ever known: not a fullblooded monster; but a soulless, faceless, godless nonentity.

PINNING DOWN THE LUFTWAFFE.

HOW ALLIED FIGHTER SWEEPS UPSET GOERING'S PLANS.

(*From the **Illustrated Weekly of India***).

Almost every day of the month squadrons of fighter planes go out from Britain to scour German military objectives in Northern France, Belgium and Holland. Bad weather does not stop them and Britain's commitments on other battle fronts still leave plenty of planes for these Fighter Sweeps. They have become almost as much a matter of routine as the operations of Britain's light naval forces, which sweep the seas for an encounter with German ships.

These routine operations of Britain's Fighter Command are not as spectacular as the big bombing raids. There are no burning dockyards, no devastated factories, no dense column of smoke to carry a warning over a wide area. Nevertheless these fighter planes cause more havoc than the laconic communiqués convey. They range over hundreds of kilometres of territory. When they see a factory or an aerodrome, they rake it with cannon fire; gas holders are shot as full of holes as a pepper pot. Military huts are machine-gunned from end to end, and heavy casualties inflicted upon their occupants. River barges are destroyed, power houses put out of action, trains derailed.

Some of Britain's Hurricanes combine the function of fighter and bomber. They carry a small bomb load for use against special objectives. When they see mine-sweepers or 'flak' ships which are too big to be sunk by cannon fire, they swoop to zero level, "skid" their bomb into the ship in the manner of a torpedo, and mount again to see the vessel ablaze or sinking beneath them.

All these results are useful to Britain from a military point of view, yet they are only incidental to the main function of the fighter sweeps. They cannot compete in importance with the widespread destruction of a bombing raid, and are not intended to do so. The real purpose of the continual daylight fighter raids on German-occupied territory is to compel Goering to keep a large part of his fighter force in the West.

The decisive action now being fought out in Russia demands every fighter and bomber plane that the Germans can muster. Britain's highly successful

raids with as many as 1,000 bombers on the big German industrial cities have gone unavenged for the sole reason that Germany dare not withdraw her bombers from the Eastern Front. She would be glad to keep every fighter on the Russian front too. In this instance, however she has no choice. She must retain fighter planes over her factories and ports to meet the R. A. F. bombers, and she must keep as many as possible strung out along the immense Western edge of the occupied territory.

It is believed that approximately half of Goering's total fighter force is pinned down in Western Europe by the R. A. F. Squadrons of Spitfires and Hurricanes shell or machine-gun troops, aerodromes, trains, fuel supplies' ships, in order to compel German fighter planes to take the air and spend themselves in battle.

The German fighters have instructions to avoid fighting wherever possible. This is not a concession to cowardice, it is a recognition by the *Luftwaffe* of the hard fact of a shortage of planes. When, however, the British fighter planes are directly over the German air fields, the fighters are compelled either to accept the challenge or to be destroyed upon the ground. When the British fighter planes are pouring shells into factory windows from a height of only a few me'res above the roof, German fighters are compelled to give battle or allow valuable plant to he destroyed.

The extent to which the *Luftwaffe* is pinned down in France, Belgium and Holland will be realized from a study of the records of R. A. F. fighter operations. In one month alone our Fighter Command made no fewer than 57 day light raids into German-occupied territory—an average of two a day. In four of these attacks the number of British planes engaged exceeded 200 at one time. Despite German attempts to evade combat they lost 42 fighter planes to those day raiders in that one month alone.

Night Fighters.—Fighter sweeps over German-occupied territory are by no means restricted to day-light. Very often the day-raiders returning at dusk pass a force of their colleagues going out on night operations. The night fighters serve a rather different purpose and their operations have a special name—Diversionary Tactics. They are not acting as an independent force but are co-operating with bombers hundreds of kilometres away over the Ruhr or the German coast.

The Germans keep a number of fighter planes in aerodromes in Belgium and Northern France to lie in wait for British bombers when they are returning from a raid over German territory. Those fighters are intended to harass the returning bombers, pick off stragglers or finish off damaged and limping machines. The Fighter command Diversionary Operations are thus intended to keep a safety lane open for the bombers on their return home. They force the German fighters to leave the ground, they compel them to engage in battle and lure them away from the bombers that are roaring victoriously towards their home bases.

The Germans cannot make good their shortage of fighter planes. Already their production has passed its peak and is slipping back.

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18–1–43	Tirumayyam ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Melur ...	7.30 ,,
19–1–43	Kulavoippatti ...	7.00 ,,
,,	Kilaiyur South ...	7.30 ,,
20–1–43	C. S. M. High School.	10.00 a.m.
20–1–43	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
,,	College A English	10.15 ,,
,,	College B Tamil.	10.15 ,,
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,,	Vendampatti ...	7.30 ,,
21–1–43	Pallivasal ...	7.00 ,,
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22–1–43	Pushyam ghat ...	5.00 ,,

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27–1–43	Rani's High School.	10.15 a.m.
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29–1–43	Udayalippatti ...	7.00 ,,
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22—1—43	Pushyam ghat.
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24—1—43	Kodumbalur.
25—1—43	Arimalam.
26—1—43	Perambur.
27—1—43	Karambakkudi.
28—1—43	Kilanilai.
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